

member selected from the group consisting of alkali metals, alkali earth metals, ammonium and alkanolammonium, [and]

[- an amine oxide surfactant;]

said alkyl alkoxy sulphate surfactant comprising 30% to 50%[20% to 60%], by weight, of branched alkyl alkoxy sulphate surfactant;

ii) an amine oxide surfactant;

iii) a surfactant which is a member selected from the group consisting of polyhydroxy fatty acid amides, betaines and the condensation product of ethylene oxide with C₈-C₁₈ alcohols, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8, delete "which is a clear liquid".

Cancel Claims 3, 4 and 5.

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the liquid compositions are clear, as originally recited in Claim 8. Claim 8 has been amended to delete the "clear liquid" terminology as being redundant.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite the presence of magnesium ions, per original Claim 5. Claim 5 has been canceled as redundant.

Claim 1 has further been amended to restrict the surfactant mixture to surfactant components which are now listed under i), ii) and iii). Components i) and ii) were in Claim 1 as previously presented. The claim has been revised slightly by rearranging the positioning of i), ii) and iii). Basis for the recitation of component iii) appears in the specification at page 9 (9), 10 (10) and 11 (11), as well as Examples [A] through [E].

Claim 1 has further been amended to specify that the branching of the branched alkyl alkoxy sulphate surfactant is 30% to 50%, per original Claim 4. In view of this amendment, Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled herewith.

The foregoing amendments add no new matter and entry is respectfully requested.

For the record, there are no formal matters outstanding.

Claims 1, 2, and 7-10 are in the case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 stand rejected over U.S. 5,387,373 for reasons of record at page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 stand rejected over U.S. 3,858,950 for reasons of record at page 3 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse both grounds of rejection. The rejections of Claims 3, 4, and 5 have been obviated by cancellation of those claims.

Turning first to the '950 reference, the remarks earlier made in regard to that reference continue to apply and will not be repeated, for the sake of brevity. However, it is noted that the compositions of the present invention are distinguished over those of '950 by the following elements:

- 1) The present compositions are designed to be stable at low temperatures, even in the presence of performance-enhancing magnesium cations. Specification page 2, lines 1-4.
- 2) The present compositions are limited to those wherein the ethoxylation of the AES surfactant is in the 0.5-3 range. This balances skin effects and detergency effects. Page 4, 4th paragraph.
- 3) The present compositions employ AES surfactants which are branched in limited amounts, i.e., 30% - 50%. Thus, if one were to use a branched AES, such as LIAL[®]123 which has 60% branching (page 5, last 3 lines) it would have to be admixed with unbranched material. This limitation is due to low sudsing of the branched material. Page 5, 2nd paragraph.
- 5) The present compositions do not contain AS surfactants.

It is again submitted that the '950 reference does not teach or suggest the foregoing elements of the present invention. Indeed, since '950 is specifically directed to "LOW SUDSING LIQUID DETERGENT COMPOSITIONS", there is no motivation therein to even consider element (4), let alone define a means to enhance sudsing.

With regard to '373, the above characterization also holds true. Moreover, the compositions of '373 require the presence of alkyl sulfate surfactants. This is demonstrated by the considerable care taken by the patentee to disclose precisely the proper alkyl sulfates for use in the invention. See '373, Columns 2-3. In contrast, the instant compositions, as now claimed, do not employ alkyl sulfate surfactants.

With regard to Example B of '373 (Column 8, line 48), that example employs an alkyl sulfate (LIAL[®]123-S). The Examiner is correct that ethoxylated LIALET[®]123-3S is also used, but as noted above, has a degree of branching (60%) outside that of the instant compositions, as now claimed.

In summary, it is submitted that the cited references, singly or in combination, do not fairly teach or suggest the present invention in the sense of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Simply stated, these references provide no motivation: to remove alkyl sulfate; nor to provide a sudsing compositions; nor to address the magnesium problem - all in a clear

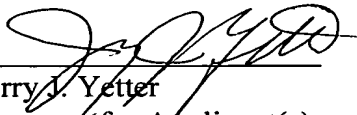
liquid composition that is stable at low temperatures. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is therefore requested.

In light of the foregoing, an early and favorable action on Claims 1, 2 and 7-10 is respectfully requested.

Further correspondence in the case should be addressed to Joseph Taffy at the address below:

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